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Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**
**Seventy-first session**

**Summary record of the 1657th meeting***
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 9 November 2018, at 12.15 p.m.

*Chair*: Ms. Leinarte

## Contents

Provisional agenda for the seventy-second session of the Committee

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventy-first session

Statement by the Chair

Closure of the session

* No summary record was issued for the 1656th meeting.

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*The meeting was called to order at 12.15 p.m.*

**Provisional agenda for the seventy-second session**

1. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the provisional agenda for the seventy-second session.

2. *It was so decided.*

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventy-first session**
(CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/6; CEDAW/C/COG/CO/7; CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9; CEDAW/C/MKD/CO/6; CEDAW/C/MUS/CO/8; CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6; CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/6; and CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/6)

3. **Ms. Manalo** (Rapporteur) said that she had the honour of introducing the Committee's draft report, which was contained in informal documents that had been circulated in the meeting room. She wished to draw attention to chapters I to III. Chapter IV concerned the draft concluding observations on the eight State party reports that the Committee had considered during its seventy-first session.

4. **The Chair** said that she took it that the Committee wished to adopt those chapters and the draft concluding observations on the reports by States parties considered at the session.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **Ms. Manalo** (Rapporteur) said that she wished to introduce the draft report of the Working Group of the Whole, which was contained in chapters VI and VII of the draft report.

7. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft report of the Working Group for inclusion in the Committee's draft report.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chair** said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft report of the Committee as a whole.

10. *The draft report of the Committee on its seventy-first session as a whole was adopted.*

**Statement by the Chair**

11. **The Chair** said that during the session, the Committee had considered eight State party reports, adopted concluding observations on those reports, held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and one national human rights institution and attended several lunchtime briefings organized by NGOs. The Committee had been pleased by the high level of engagement of the local NGOs of Nepal, many of which had been supported by International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, and of the national human rights institution of that State party.

12. Thanks were due to the United Nations entities and other intergovernmental bodies that had provided the Committee with detailed information, including the inter-agency group on reporting to the Committee, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. A number of United Nations country teams had submitted their reports through the inter-agency group, two such teams had sent a representative and another had briefed the Committee via videoconference. Two field offices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had also briefed the Committee via videoconference.

13. The Committee had made good progress in endorsing the concept note for the general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and in discussing its scope and content. The Committee's working group on the Sustainable Development Goals had issued revised reporting guidelines that would facilitate assessment of the implementation of the Goals. Thanks to the work carried out by

the Rapporteur and the Alternate Rapporteur on follow-up, eight follow-up assessments had been adopted and improvements had been made to the Committee's working methods for follow-up.

14. The Committee had also made good progress in its work on individual communications submitted under the Optional Protocol. Thanks to the excellent drafts prepared by the Committee's working group on communications, two final decisions on communications and a document on working methods for individual communications had been adopted. The Committee had issued a press release on the recognition by the Spanish Supreme Court of the binding nature of the Committee's Views on the Spanish authorities and adopted a recommendation on the issue of surrogacy. Rule 64 (2) of the Committee's rules of procedure had been amended and the proposed amendments to the standard operating procedures on inquiries had been approved.

15. During the session, the Committee had had interesting exchanges with the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, the Human Rights Committee, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Such meetings were important in ensuring that ideas continued to be developed and shared within the treaty body system.

**Closure of the session**

16. Following an exchange of courtesies, **the Chair** declared the seventy-first session closed.

*The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.*